

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMEMBASSY SANAA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN  
CINCLANT NORVA  
CINCPAC HONO HI  
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON  
COMIDEASTFOR ATHENS

UNCLAS STATE 134645

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, US, UK, XO

SUBJECT: HOUSE HEARINGS ON DIEGO

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REF: STATE 132696

BEIRUT ALSO PASS BAGHDAD

MILITARY ADDEES ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ISA) JAMES H. NOYES  
BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ON JUNE 5:

QUOTE: MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, I

HAVE REVIEWED MY TESTIMONY ON MARCH 1974 AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IT FULLY REFLECTS MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE STRATEGIC SITUATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THEREFORE, I SHALL NOT REPEAT THE SAME POINTS HERE TODAY. HOWEVER, FOURTEEN EVENTFUL MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE MY PREVIOUS TESTIMONY, AND IT IS USEFUL TO REVIEW SOME OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS WHICH RELATE SPECIFICALLY TO OUR PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE A MODEST EXPANSION OF THE FACILITIES AT DIEGO

GARCIA.

THE U.S. PRESENCE

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED IN NOVEMBER 1973 THAT WE INTENDED TO RETURN TO A POLICY OF MORE FREQUENT AND MORE REGULAR VISITS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. PERHAPS I CAN BEST PUT THAT POLICY IN PERSPECTIVE BY REVIEWING THE HISTORY OF US NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS TO THE INDIAN OCEAN SINCE MY PREVIOUS TESTIMONY ON THIS SUBJECT.

FIRST, THE THREE SHIPS OF MIDDLE EAST FORCE HAVE CONTINUED TO OPERATE THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD AS THEY HAVE FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY. THE FLAGSHIP OF MIDEASTFOR, THE USS LASALLE, HAS CONTINUED TO BE HOMEPORTED IN BAHRAIN, AND TWO DESTROYERS HAVE CONTINUED TO OPERATE IN THE PERSIAN GULF, RED SEA AND INDIAN OCEAN ON ROTATION FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE MISSION OF THIS SMALL COMMAND REMAINS, AS BEFORE, PRIMARILY DIPLOMATIC. BY UNCLASSIFIED

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MEANS OF REGULAR PORT CALLS, OCCASIONAL PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL EXERCISES, AND OTHER ROUTINE CONTACTS, MIDEASTFOR MAINTAINS CONTINUING LIAISON WITH THE NAVIES AND APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE AREA. WE CONTINUE TO REGARD THIS FORCE AS A USEFUL ADJUNCT TO THE ENTIRE RANGE OF US DIPLOMATIC, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS WHICH WE MAINTAIN WITH THE NATIONS OF THE REGION.

THE ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENTS TO WHICH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD REFERENCE HAVE, DURING THE PAST YEAR, COME FROM THE PACIFIC FLEET. DURING MY PREVIOUS APPEARANCE IN MARCH 1974, THE CARRIER USS KITTY HAWK WAS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WITH THREE SURFACE COMBATANTS AND AN OILER. THIS GROUP DEPARTED IN APRIL. DURING JULY AND AUGUST OF 1974, THE CRUISER USS CHICAGO VISITED THE INDIAN OCEAN WITH TWO DESTROYERS AND AN OILER. IN NOVEMBER 1974, THE CARRIER USS CONSTELLATION WITH FOUR SURFACE ESCORTS AND A SUBMARINE VISITED THE INDIAN OCEAN AND PARTICIPATED IN NAVAL EXERCISES WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL TREATY ORGANIZATION. THE NUCLEAR CARRIER USS ENTERPRISE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE NUCLEAR CRUISER USS LONG BEACH, TWO

DESTROYERS, AND A FAST COMBAT SUPPORT SHIP VISITED THE AREA IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR--A VISIT WHICH INCLUDED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE ISLAND NATION OF MAURITIUS WHICH HAD BEEN STRUCK BY A VIOLENT CYCLONE ON FEBRUARY 6. SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF THE ENTERPRISE GROUP, THERE HAVE BEEN NO US DEPLOYMENTS TO THE CENTRAL INDIAN OCEAN FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA.

OVER THE PAST FOURTEEN MONTHS, WE HAVE HAD ADDITIONAL FORCES DEPLOYED TO THE INDIAN OCEAN ONLY ABOUT 36 PERCENT OF THE TIME; OR, TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, DURING 64 PERCENT OF THIS PERIOD OUR ONLY NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE AREA HAS CONSISTED OF THE THREE SHIPS OF THE MIDDLE EAST FORCE. I BELIEVE THAT THIS POLICY HAS EFFECTIVELY DEMONSTRATED OUR ABILITY TO OPERATE SIGNIFICANT FORCES IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA WHILE AVOIDING ANY ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS PROVOCATIVE. IN VIEW OF ALL THE DISCUSSION ABOUT US MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, IT IS SOMEWHAT IRONIC TO NOTE THAT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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TERMS OF NUMBERS OF NAVAL COMBATANTS, THE US VERY FREQUENTLY RANKS THIRD, AFTER FRANCE AND THE SOVIET UNION. THAT IS, IN FACT, THE SITUATION AT THE PRESENCE TIME.

THE SOVIET PRESENCE

AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, THERE WAS SOME DEBATE ABOUT THE TREND OF SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. MUCH OF THAT DOUBT HAS BEEN REMOVED BY THE ACTIONS OF THE USSR ITSELF. IN JULY 1974 THE USSR SIGNED A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH THE NATION OF SOMALIA. ADMIRAL GORSHKOV, THE COMMANDER OF THE SOVIET NAVY, VISITED THERE IN DECEMBER. LAST YEAR, WE REPORTED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ACCESS TO THE PORT WHICH THEY CONSTRUCTED FOR SOMALIA AT BERBERA, WHICH DOMINATES THE GULF OF ADEN AND THE MOUTH OF THE RED SEA. IN ADDITION TO THE NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION, THE PERMANENT BARRACKS/REPAIR SHIP, THE HOUSING ASHORE, THE POL STORAGE TANKS, AND THE PIER SPACE WHICH WAS REPORTED AT THAT TIME, WE HAVE NOW BECOME AWARE THAT THE USSR HAS COMMENCED CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR AIRSTRIP, HAS GREATLY EXPANDED THE POL STORAGE, AND IS CONSTRUCTING A MISSILE STORAGE AND HANDLING FACILITY. THE NUMBER OF SOVIET SHIPS WHICH VISITED BERBERA IN 1974 INCREASED TO MORE THAN 60 FROM FEWER THAN 50 THE YEAR BEFORE, INCLUDING THE VISIT OF A NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINE.

SOVIET FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN PARTICIPATED MUCH MORE ACTIVELY IN THE RECENT WORLD-WIDE SOVIET NAVAL EXERCISE THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE IN 1970. ONE INNOVATION DURING

THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE WAS THE USE OF AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN BY SOVIET AIRCRAFT--SOME OF WHICH OPERATED FROM AIRFIELDS IN LITTORAL STATES. THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF SOVIET COMBATANT NAVAL SHIPS INCREASED MODESTLY IN 1974 OVER 1973. THE SOVIET MINESWEEPING OPERATION IN BANGLADESH WAS COMPLETED, BUT ANOTHER MINESWEEPING OPER-

TION WAS UNDERTAKEN IN THE NORTHERN RED SEA IN PREPARATION

FOR THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL. THIS LATTER  
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OPERATION INCLUDED A NUMBER OF FIRST LINE SOVIET COMBATANT UNITS, NOTABLY INCLUDING THE HELICOPTER CARRIER LENINGRAD--THE FIRST VISIT OF THIS TYPE UNIT TO THE INDIAN OCEAN.

IN SHORT, THE SOVIET PRESENCE CONTINUED TO GROW STEADILY AS IT HAS EVER SINCE IT WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1968. SOVIET INTERESTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT THE SUEZ CANAL ONCE AGAIN PROVIDES MORE READY ACCESS. THIS FACT IS REFLECTED IN SOVIET STRATEGY, WHICH APPEARS TO BE BUILDING FOR THE LONG TERM.

I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE WHAT I SAID HERE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, THAT NONE OF US IN THE US GOVERNMENT BELIEVE WE SHOULD BASE OUR OWN PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ON A NARROW SHIP-FOR-SHIP COMPARISON WITH THE SOVIET UNION. BOTH NATIONS HAVE SUFFICIENT INTERESTS IN THE REGION TO JUSTIFY A PRESENCE THERE EVEN IF THE OTHER WERE ABSENT. HOWEVER, THE GROWTH OF SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE REGION MUST NECESSARILY REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR FOR US IN DETERMINING OUR OWN POLICY.

DIEGO GARCIA

THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED TO YOU ABOUT OUR PROPOSED EXPANSION OF FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA ARE THOSE EFFECTED BY THE CONGRESS. OUR ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR 32.3 MILLION DOLS IN FY 75 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION FUNDS WAS REDUCED TO 18.1 MILLION DOLS, SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF A PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION OF THE NECESSITY OF SUCH CONSTRUCTION. WE HAVE REQUESTED AN ADDITIONAL 13.8 MILLION DOLS IN THE CURRENT FY 76 MILCON BILL, AND, IF THE PROJECT IS NOT DISAPPROVED, WE WILL REQUEST A FURTHER 5.9 MILLION DOLS IN FY 77 TO COMPLETE THE PLANNED CONSTRUCTION. (ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN OUT YEARS MAY INCREASE DUE TO INFLATION.)

THERE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT THE TRUE PRICE OF

THE DIEGO GARCIA INSTALLATION WILL BE 175 MILLION DOLS.  
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IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING, I WOULD LIKE TO  
CLARIFY THIS POINT.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE FUNDS FOR DIEGO GARCIA WHICH HAVE  
BEEN REQUESTED IN FY 75 AND FY 76 WERE THE REQUIRED FUNDS  
FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AND IT WAS THE MILCON BILL  
WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF PREVIOUS HEARINGS. THIS SECTION

OF THE BUDGET DOES NOT INCLUDE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH  
SALARIES, WITH PROCUREMENT OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT,  
OR WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT  
ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION. LAST YEAR, THE NAVY WAS  
REQUESTED TO PROVIDE AN ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL COST,  
INCLUDING THESE ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS. THEY DID SO, AND  
THE 175 MILLION DOLS FIGURE IS BASED ON THESE NAVY  
ESTIMATES WHICH WERE PROVIDED TO CONGRESS. LET ME REVIEW  
FOR YOU WHAT THESE FIGURES SHOW.

FIRST, THE FIGURES INCLUDE WORK THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN  
AUTHORIZED AND COMPLETED ON THE COMMUNICATIONS STATION  
AND ITS SUPPORTING FACILITIES. CONGRESS IN 1971  
AUTHORIZED 20.45 MILLION DOLS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A  
LIMITED COMMUNICATIONS STATION ON DIEGO GARCIA. PROCURE-  
MENT AND INSTALLATION COSTS OF THE HARDWARE FOR THE  
STATION AMOUNTED TO APPROXIMATELY 2.8 MILLION DOLS. THE  
SALARIES AND SUBSISTENCE COSTS FOR THE SEABEE UNIT  
WHICH CARRIED OUT THE CONSTRUCTION CAME TO ABOUT 21 MIL-  
LION DOLS. THE FOOD, FUEL, REPAIR PARTS AND  
TRANSPORTATION OF THE SEABEES WAS ANOTHER 11.4 MILLION  
DOLS. AND THE REPLACEMENT OF MAJOR ITEMS OF CONSTRUCTION  
EQUIPMENT AMOUNTED TO 9.8 MILLION DOLS, FOR A TOTAL OF  
ABOUT 65.3 MILLION DOLS. THIS IS THE SUM WHICH HAS  
ALREADY BEEN SPENT IN CONSTRUCTING AND OUTFITTING THE  
COMMUNICATIONS STATION NOW OPERATING ON DIEGO GARCIA.

APPLYING THE SAME PROCEDURE TO ANTICIPATED FUTURE COSTS  
IN EARLY 1974, THE NAVY ESTIMATED THAT THE PROPOSED  
ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT STATION WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY  
108 MILLION DOLS THROUGH FY 76. THIS SUM, PLUS PREVIOUS  
EXPENDITURES, GAVE A GRAND TOTAL OF ABOUT 173 MILLION  
DOLS FOR THE ENTIRE INSTALLATION. IT SHOULD BE NOTED  
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THAT THIS ESTIMATE DID NOT FORESEE THE SUCCESSIVE DELAYS  
WHICH WILL NOW PUSH THE COMPLETION DATE BACK TO FY 77  
OR LATER, SO THE TOTAL COST MAY SUBSEQUENTLY BE  
INCREASED DUE TO INFLATIONARY PRESSURES.

THESE FIGURES ARE NOT SECRET. THEY WERE PROVIDED IN EARLY 1974. IN USING THESE FIGURES, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT 38 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL REPRESENTS FUNDING WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN AUTHORIZED AND APPROPRIATED BY THE CONGRESS, AND THAT THE REMAINDER INCLUDES SALARIES AND CONSUMABLES AS WELL AS DIRECT CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

OUR PROPOSAL FOR DIEGO GARCIA INVOLVES PRECISELY THE SAME FACILITIES TODAY AS THOSE WHICH WERE INITIALLY PROPOSED IN EARLY 1974, I.E., LENGTHENING THE RUNWAY FROM 8,000

TO 12,000 FEET, INCREASING THE AVAILABLE POL STORAGE, THE BUILDING OF ADDITIONAL QUARTERS FOR PERSONNEL ASSIGNED THERE, CONSTRUCTING A PIER TO FACILITATE CARGO HANDLING, DREDGING OF THE HARBOR TO PERMIT SEVERAL SHIPS TO ANCHOR THERE SIMULTANEOUSLY, AND CONSTRUCTING ADDITIONAL UTILITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. I HAVE ATTACHED TO MY STATEMENT A DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ITEMS.

THE MORE BASIC QUESTION--WHY DO WE NEED DIEGO GARCIA AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS--IS MUCH MORE CRITICAL TO OUR DISCUSSION HERE TODAY. I BELIEVE THE ANSWER IS VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD. THE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES WHICH WE HAVE REQUESTED FOR DIEGO GARCIA WOULD PROVIDE AN ASSURED ACCESS TO LOGISTICAL SUPPORT WHICH FOR EXAMPLE, COULD SUSTAIN THE OPERATION OF A NORMAL CARRIER TASK GROUP IN A CONTINGENCY SITUATION FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT 30 DAYS IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY EXTERNAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY. IN A WORLD OF GREAT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY, THAT MARGIN OF TIME COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ORDERLY, EFFICIENT RESUPPLY OF US FORCES AND A HASTY, AD HOC, EXPENSIVE OPERATION REQUIRING A SIGNIFICANT DIVERSION OF SUPPORT ASSETS FROM OTHER AREAS. THUS, IN ADDITION TO THE INCREASED

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OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY WHICH WE WOULD ACQUIRE FROM ENLARGED SUPPORT FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA, WE WOULD IN EFFECT BE BUYING A MEASURE OF IMMUNITY FROM EVENTS SUCH AS THOSE IN OCTOBER 1973 WHEN LOCAL SUPPLY SOURCES WERE SEVERED.

IN AN AREA AS IMPORTANT AS THE INDIAN OCEAN, WHERE OVER HALF THE WORLD'S SEABORNE OIL IS IN TRANSIT AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT, I BELIEVE THE NECESSITY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO BE ABLE TO OPERATE ITS FORCES SECURELY AND INDEPENDENTLY IS SELF-EVIDENT. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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CANBERRA  
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